

PugetSoundPartnership

our sound, our community, our chance

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel Meeting Summary

February 7, 2011
Center for Urban Waters, Tacoma, WA

Day 1

Science Panel Members Present:

- William Labiosa
- Wayne Landis
- Jan Newton
- Timothy Quinn
- John Stark
- Usha Varanasi
- Katharine Wellman
- Joel Baker

It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting. A recording of this meeting is retained by the Partnership as part of the formal record.

Action Items:

- Approval of January 11, 2011 Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Updates
 - Washington State Academy of Sciences
 - Target Setting
 - Lead Organization Plan Development
 - Biennial Science Work Plan – Work Session
-

After the last Science Panel meeting, in an effort to help provide meeting summaries in a timely manner, Vice Chair Joe Gaydos volunteered to take notes during the meetings when he is in attendance and ask for Panel volunteers when he is unable to attend. As Joe was unavailable for this meeting, Trina Wellman volunteered to take notes during the meeting.

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER – Jan Newton, Chair

Science Panel Chair Jan Newton opened the regular meeting of the Science Panel at 9:11 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the day. The agenda was approved as presented.

January 11, 2011 Meeting Summary Approval

John Stark **MOVED** to approve the January 11, 2011, meeting summary. Bill Labiosa **SECONDED**. The January 11, 2011 meeting summary was **APPROVED** as presented.

UPDATES

Social Science Advisory Committee

Trina Wellman presented the outcomes of the committee's first meeting held January 6, 2011. The group will:

- (1) Create some side boards to ongoing discussion
- (2) Hire graduate student/post doc to determine where there are entry points for social science in the Puget Sound Partnership and for possible studies, if needed. Only implement a workshop if one is needed. Make sure student/post doc's discipline is not too narrowly defined
- (3) Conduct a qualitative, systematic review of tradeoffs (social and economic effects) related to targets. Will need a clear delineation of who are the affected populations (stakeholders) (*Lynda Ransley will look internally for funding*)
- (4) Conduct a session at the Salish Sea Conference in October. Generate a concept proposal to define lines of that session. Use the session as a sounding board for Partnership work in the area of social science (*Science Panel, please submit ideas to Trina as to what a session might look like*).

Usha Varanasi urged use of a young faculty member to guide the work of the student/post doc. Joel Baker reiterated the need to engage the social science community and said that Sea Grant and the Puget Sound Institute are interested in supporting a 1-day social science workshop at the University of Washington. Their goal is to have this workshop during the next academic quarter.

Tim Quinn stated his interest in whether the process of target setting heightened the need for social science work before targets are set. After this discussion he feels confident that we can move ahead with target setting and not slow down the process to engage in social science related research first.

Agency Update

Ken Currens stated that the new Executive Director for the Partnership will be announced soon. He also briefly noted that target setting and monitoring sessions were shared with the Ecosystem Coordination Board, which led to very interesting discussions. More details will be discussed later in the agenda.

Legislative Update

Ken made note of House Bill 1307, which would require all state agencies to conduct peer review of all science input before taking any action.

Monitoring Program

Ken stated that the Washington Association of Businesses and the environmental community have written letters stating their desire to have the Coordinated Ecosystem

Monitoring Program to be independent of the Partnership. Jan noted that everyone on the Monitoring Launch Committee strongly believes there is nothing about the proposed structure and form that prohibits a highly functioning entity. The Leadership Council will make a decision on this issue at its February meeting.

Puget Sound Institute (PSI)

Joel Baker introduced Andy James and Elizabeth Skewgar as two new employees of the PSI. The Institute is currently searching for a Managing Editor and Lead Scientist. Joel will send a copy of the job position description for the latter and asked the Science Panel members to spread the word.

Andy has been busy tracking various opportunities for the PSI including (1) Shore land Master Program - No Net Loss and indicator development; (2) Ruckelshaus Center - Shoreline Master Program dialogue between scientists and stakeholders such as shoreline property owners; (3) USGS - climate change impacts and local modeling of carbon storage; (4) Ecology, Mindy Roberts - water quality issues.

Joel also noted that PSI has money for short-term projects to support key scientific needs. Joel would like the Panel to suggest guidance and a process for selecting these projects.

Wayne Landis asked Joel about the inclusion of transboundary work with University of British Columbia and University of Victoria. Joel said that agency-to-agency work is occurring but suggested that it would be valuable to implement a more strategic scientist-to-scientist effort at the Salish Sea Conference, for example.

Action - Task: Develop a process for the Science Panel to identify PSI short-term projects – Presentation at March meeting

Leadership Council Update

Leadership Council Chair, Martha Kongsgaard confirmed Ken's report that the Governor should be making an announcement about the new Executive Director within the next 24-48 hours.

She mentioned a good Kitsap Sun article about the Puget Sound Partnership's work .

She reported that she will be going to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressional delegates and others about federal funding. She also reported that the Partnership is doing well in the Washington State legislative session.

WASHINGTON STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (WSAS) REVIEW

Jan Newton noted that Gordon Orians would like to have a meeting with Jan and Joe Gaydos to discuss suggestions for the process and content of the review. Jan submitted to the Panel a set of questions as a starting point for that discussion:

1. Is the Partnership incorporating science into their decision-making process effectively?
2. In what areas, specifically, should improvements be made?
3. How does the Puget Sound Partnership's effort to incorporate science into restoration compare to what has been done or is being done in other major ecosystem restoration efforts and what lessons learned from other ecosystem programs should the Partnership be implementing?

Usha suggested that, since this review will have great impact, we need to understand the scope of their review, and we need to give reviewers enough information to make an informed judgment. Trina suggested including a summary of the Science Panel meeting notes.

Martha Kongsgaard suggested noting where we are in the Action Agenda update. Should there be a workflow change to better link the work products?

Joel suggested looking at the National Academy reviews of similar programs. Is this a review of how the science is used or how the Partnership is doing? Joel recommends it should not be the latter. Existing questions need to be reworded to make them more open ended and less "yes/no".

The Science Panel reviewed the language of the legislation with regards to the WSAS. It is very opened ended. Jan stated that Gordon, however, wants the review to focus on the science. Due to budget constraints, the WSAS must limit the scope of the review. Tim stated that, as a reviewer, he would like to see how resources have been invested and whether those investments in recovery have been efficient and/or effective. Bill Labiosa suggested explicitly linking the questions to aspects of Action Agenda success, since that is the focus of the legislative language.

Action: Jan, Ken, and Joe will meet with Gordon Orians on February 28 to clarify the scope of the assessment before offering questions. The Science Panel was asked to provide suggestions for questions to Jan.

TARGET SETTING

Scott Redmond reoriented the Panel to the target setting process. He outlined the principals and process for setting targets. This included a discussion of two types of targets--those for ecosystem components and those for pressure reduction-- and steps and timeline for 2011 target setting. In addition, he provided a synopsis of the two targets proposed for adoption at the February Leadership Council meeting-- reopened shellfish beds and eelgrass.

After March 23, Scott will convene the indicator champions, modelers, and Chris Harvey to see if there are any issues with the data and the models being used to analyze the data. Joel recommended that after the models had been cranked once, it would be important to look at the tradeoffs resulting from the target setting. In order for this to be relevant, resource managers should be included in this discussion. Wayne Landis

voiced a concern about pressure reduction, and he stated it is important to recognize the limitations in reducing some pressures (legal, regulatory, sociopolitical). Scott stated that the target should reflect our vision of a healthy sound. That is what the ECB has called for.

Scott asked Panel members if the 2-4-page memorandum presented for each target was enough information to be able to make comments/recommendations on the proposals. Jan asked that references be included. It was decided that both the summary and more detailed versions would be provided to Panel members. In the future, the Science Panel asked that all write-ups be as consistent in form as possible. The champions will be asked to write the long version and Partnership staff will produce the 2-page summaries for review of the target proposals.

Action: Panel's target review teams will be asked to conduct reviews for two pending targets: Eelgrass (Bill Labiosa, Wayne Landis, Tim Quinn) and Shellfish (Jan Newton, Bob Johnston, Usha Varanasi, John Stark, Joel Baker).

LEAD ORGANIZATION WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Scott Redmond noted that the EPA has dedicated funding to develop and implement strategies for:

- Marine and nearshore protection and restoration (Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources)
- Watershed protection and restoration (Department of Ecology and Department of Commerce)
- Toxics and nutrients prevention, reduction and control (Department of Ecology)
- Pathogen prevention, reduction, and control (Department of Health and Department of Ecology)

Scott provided the four individual Lead Organization write-ups. This is the packet that was provided to the ECB last week. (See meeting materials for details.)

Martha Kongsgaard asked if the Lead Organizations are expected to be the experts in the topics they lead or are they to just coordinate the efforts. Scott explained that the Lead Organizations are coordinating the efforts. They need to understand the full institutional framework and then fill gaps wherever possible with the funding provided.

Angela Grout, Environmental Protection Administration (EPA), explained that EPA is expecting the Science Panel to provide a review of the work and to provide guidance in the projects using the Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP) to focus the efforts. The Panel may be asked to provide a "red-yellow-green review" of the current list of projects.

Scott discussed the challenge of nesting and coordinating the Action Agenda and the 6-year strategies. He then reviewed the proposed role for the ECB, explaining it is a big role considering the ECB only meets quarterly. Staff is proposing use of cross partnership workgroups to move the work along. This would be a group convened by the Lead Organization although Partnership staff would be available to assist.

One role of the Leadership Council will be to assure the 6-year strategies are in line with the Action Agenda on an annual basis.

In addition to Science Panel members being included on the cross partnership groups, other roles may include:

- Receiving and discussing critical uncertainties in the BSWP
- Review of project proposals before work is done
- Review of products

The group discussed the amount of funding provided for science review. The amount set aside varies. Some Lead Organizations have set aside up to 10%, but not in all cases. Some have set aside for adaptive management. Others have investments in particular studies, but all have some investment. One of the challenges in identifying the exact investment is in the way the proposals were written – papers were written for a one-year timeframe so some investments are zeroed out in this initial paper but will show investment over the 6-year plan.

The group then discussed ways to ensure the BSWP recommendations are funded through this process. This is a critical junction in the 6-year process and the Science Panel may want to raise this concern. The Lead Organizations will be running the Request for Proposal (RFP) process but the Science Panel will review the RFP for linkages to the BSWP. The Panel will also be engaged through the Management Conference. The Panel noted that earlier they thought the funding for science would come through the Scientific Research Account and that the Panel would run the RFP processes. However, that didn't happen. If there are concerns, the Panel needs to comment now.

Angela Grout pointed out the need to clarify a productive role for the Science Panel this round, and at the same time figure out how to better link the science in future funding cycles. She reminded the group that the Lead Organizations only received one year of funding.

The Panel discussed how the villain has been miscommunication between the entities. If the Panel has ideas about how to better coordinate the science, then they need to sit down with EPA and discuss the science that must be conducted to meet Science Panel requirements and how to fund it.

Jan Newton reminded the group that the afternoon work session is focused on the BSWP, so perhaps the first item should be to highlight the status of the science proposed in the current BSWP. After this discussion, the Panel may want to suggest another joint meeting of the boards.

The Panel was reminded that there is still some time to make adjustments to the Lead Organization budget proposals, but that they need to go through the Lead Organization and EPA to make any changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mindy Roberts, Department of Ecology, challenged the Science Panel members to read HB1307 carefully because the language indicates an effort to challenge science rather than support the use of sound science in decision-making. There will be important fiscal impacts with the bill.

Jan noted that there could be improvements made to the agencies' peer-review processes, but it might be that the current version of the bill is not the answer.

BIENNIAL SCIENCE WORK PLAN (BSWP) WORK SESSION

Preliminary discussion was in regards to the lack of money within the Lead Organization grants to do any social science. In general, it appears that none of the science-related questions in the BSWP appear anywhere within the overall set of strategies. There is no funding whatsoever identified for science research. They discussed how Norm Dicks talked about the need to direct at least the 10% of funds to science. All the Lead Organizations need to understand that. The BSWP was a product that the Panel thought was to be used to move programs forward, but this does not seem to be the case.

Martha Kongsgaard stated that several lead agencies have voiced belief that all their money was to be used to fund on-the-ground projects and they are not investing in science this round. The question raised was how, under these circumstances, will the BSWP ever be implemented. It was suggested that a letter be written to Martha and Gerry O'Keefe stating the Science Panel's concern about the implementation of the BSWP given the current budget situation. It was suggested that there is still some time to provide input to the Lead Organization (LO) strategies.

Action: With Usha's assistance, Jan will draft the letter focusing on sections 2.2.4, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and 3.1.3 of the BSWP and send it to the Panel for review.

BSWP

Joel suggested a completely new approach for the next version of the BSWP - to generate an omnibus RFP that lists all priority science needs.

Ken suggested generating a BSWP based on the Action Agenda structure for revision and alignment with the four topic areas from 2009 "Threats Assessment" and Lead Organization work:

- (1) Shoreline alternation and nearshore habitat
- (2) Land development
- (3) Waste water
- (4) Runoff from built environment

Others were concerned that this format would not pick up emerging science needs and crosscutting issues.

The decision was that the Panel would do a "retail" revision of the existing BSWP, using some of the same format and including some of the same sections. Wayne and Trina volunteered to develop a draft outline. Staff and consultants will write the actual document. The outline will be based on five sources of information (1) the results chains and assessment of what knowledge is missing, (2) comments on the Puget Sound Science Update (PSSU), (3) the Action Agenda, (4) the Strategic Science Plan, and (5) Lead Organization strategies.

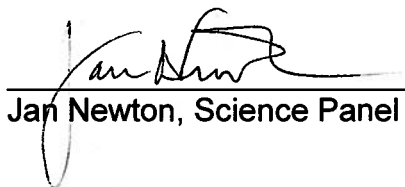
One major concern remains: how to best communicate the new plan to the greater community, especially the Lead Organizations, in the future. In the short term, it was suggested using the next three weekly Lead Organization coordination meetings to raise the Science Panel issues with the LO's. Scott and Angela usually attend these meetings. Ken, Trina and Bill are also interested in attending. Joel reported that he is trying to get time on the agenda as the PSI and could be there for this discussion, too.

Action:

- Revision of the BSWP - Trina and Wayne will start the outline
- Ken will send the open-standards chains to Wayne and Trina as an example to help them
- Ken will then share draft outline with rest of Panel and discuss more at the March meeting
- Some Panel members will attend the Lead Organization coordination meetings

3:48 p.m. ADJOURN

Science Panel Approval



Jan Newton, Science Panel Chair

3-8-11
Date